

# BFPCO Celebrates With Fourth Annual Festival, Parade

By Bonita Hardin  
Special To The Post  
The Biddleville-Five Points Community Organization celebrated its fourth annual festival and parade on Saturday, October 19.

Every year a festival is held in the Biddleville-Five Points Park just behind Gethsemane AME Zion Church on Campus Street, where booths and exhibits are set up.

Established in 1976, the organization maintains better community relations as well as significant economic developments in the Biddleville community.

Traditionally, the parade and festival included BFPCO members, representatives of the City Council, the Planning Commission, the JCSU marching band, local high school bands, and a represented band for the United House of Prayer. This year, however, the JCSU band was the only band in the parade session.

The high-stepping Bulls led the way at 10:05 a.m. from the Bitsy Bounty Food Mart on Beatties Ford Road. Along the way, they woke up area merchants and residents guiding them only to the festival.

"Where is this parade going?" asked an onlooker while seated in his parked car in the Northwest Junior High School parking lot.

As decorated vehicles in the parade cruised down Beatties Ford, folks hurriedly took to the streets. Gathering on front sidewalks, porches, and doorsteps, spectators waved at those in the parade line up.

Attending the festival were Charlotte's Mayor Harvey Gantt and Dr. Robert Albright of Johnson C. Smith University. Both renowned men made the festival more significant.

Casually dressed, Mayor Gantt strolled alongside the parade greeting and shaking hands of many in the community. He even had a chance to throw a few football passes with area youth.

Mayor Gantt mentioned that the Biddleville-Five Points community gets a good share of money through the city to rebuild homes, as he played with a seven-year-old who seemed to be very fond of his presence at the park.

Dr. Albright arrived much later than other local supporters. However late, he delivered good news to the Biddleville community. Albright told about developmental plans for a retail and residential complex near Johnson C. Smith University, which he hopes will be similar to recently

opened University Place. He expressed that he would like to see a wider variety of entertainment brought to the area for more young people. Plans for the 20-acre site behind the university, to be completed within three to five years, also include a movie theater, boutiques, drug stores, homes, and townhouses. Albright is working along with Louise Sellers, BFPCO president to bring the same quality of life to the neighborhood that most other neighborhoods have.

Speaking of entertainment, Skip Murphy of WPEG certainly excited the crowd when he arrived at the park. Entertaining the BFPCO festival for the first time, he said, "This festival is more personal than other activities I have attended because large crowds seem more hesitant to introduce themselves." Well, this was not the case among Biddleville residents who kept "Mr. Murphy" busy signing autographs.

Other entertainers were the John Rogers Expression and Joan Barnett, Lonnie Miller and the Greater Charlotte Community Choral, and The Anointed Ones, who represent various community churches.

City Council candidates and campaigners devoted their energies toward making the festival a successful one also.

Beverly Neilson, excited campaigner for Herbert Spaugh Jr., City Council member, said that she loved Charlotte and that was why she participated in the festival. She also mentioned the importance of supporting those people like Spaugh who influence the quality of better living conditions in the area. Spaugh is responsible for housing in BFPCO.

While posing for a picture with beautiful Miss JCSU, Spaugh said that he was glad to be among this year's enthusiastic turn out.

City Council members included Vic Bell, Richard Vinroot, Mike Stenhouse, and Minette Trosch. J. W. Walton, director of

community development, said he looks forward to continued partnership in expanding economic opportunity to provide safe and decent sanitary housing and continued economic development in Biddleville.

The festival's theme was "10 Years Strong And Moving On." "It's gotten better," said Gladys Strong, a member of the BFPCO planning committee, adding, "we plan to start working earlier for next year's festival."



Dr. Robert Albright  
.....Attends festival



Herbert Spaugh Jr.  
...Responsible for housing



Jay Walton  
.....CD director



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